

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 INT-05 STR-04 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

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R 151454Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 8432

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENRG ECON UR VE

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON CSCE AND SOVIET-VENEZUELAN
RELATIONS

REF CARACAS 3041

SUMMARY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON CSCE, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO
VENEZUELA REITERATED HIS OFFER (REFTEL) OF EXPANDED TRADE AND
TECHNICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND VENEZUELA. END SUMMARY

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR KAZIMIROV CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON AUG 12 TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF CSCE AND DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF
BREZHNEV'S HELSINKI SPEECH. KAZIMIROV EMPHASIZED THAT CSCE
REPRESENTED A NEW STAGE IN DETENTE WHICH WOULD CONSOLIDATE THE
PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE
RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. HE
UNDERLINED BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT MILITARY DETENTE WOULD NOW
HAVE TO BE STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. KAZIMIROV TOOK THE OCCASION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO
REITERATE HIS OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA AND
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OF COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM AND

HYDROELECTRIC INDUSTRIES. HE SAID THAT THE USSR WAS PREPARED TO HELP TRAIN VENEZUELAN TECHNICIANS AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CREATION OF A TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN VENEZUELA WITH SOVIET PROFESSORS AS THE STAFF. KAZIMIROV NOTED THE USSR'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND POINTEDLY OBSERVED THAT THE USSR HAD JUST SURPASSED THE U.S. AS THE WORLD'S LEADING PETROLEUM PRODUCER.

3. COMMENT: TO ASSESS KAZIMIROV'S TACTICS, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON CSCE WAS REPEATED BY SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN CAPITALS OR WAS UNIQUE TO VENEZUELA. IF THE LATTER, KAZIMIROV MAY HAVE BEEN SEEKING A PLATFORM TO MAKE ANOTHER PITCH FOR IMPROVED SOVIET-VENEZUELAN TRADE AND TECHNOLOGICAL RELATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. POSITION ON CSCE, PRIOR TO KAZIMIROV'S PRESS CONFERENCE EMBASSY HAD MADE WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S HELSINKI SPEECH AND HAD PROVIDED U.S. BACKGROUND PAPER (STATE 177097) TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA08432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750283-0120
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750846/aaaabnxf.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 3041
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON CSCE AND SOVIET-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ECON, UR, VE, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006